

## ORDINANCE 2017-30

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WHITESTOWN, INDIANA, CREATING A BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council (“Town Council”) of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana (“Whitestown” or “Town”) has declared in its Comprehensive Plan Update the importance of making long-term sustainability a focus of all decision making processes in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Update also noted the importance of ensuring that proper steps are taken to preserve and protect environmental assets in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan Update also included maximizing connectivity, quality of life, and scenic beautification in Whitestown; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council declares sustainability, beautification and maintenance of a healthy environment, together with social and economic well-being, is vital to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this ordinance to coordinate and inform efforts to promote beautification and environmental responsibility, for the greater good of the public in the Whitestown community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana, as follows:

1. **Establishment.** There is hereby created a Whitestown Beautification and Environmental Sustainability Commission (“Commission”).

2. **Membership.** The Commission shall consist of five (5) voting members, to be appointed by the Town Council President with the approval of a majority of the Whitestown Town Council. The Town Council President shall further designate the President of the Commission from the Commission’s membership. As Whitestown is an inclusive community that promotes diversity, equality, and tolerance among all of its citizens, the appointing authorities are also strongly encouraged to appoint additional members with varying and diverse backgrounds.

3. **Qualifications.** Applicants seeking membership to the Commission should have an interest in improving the everyday life of Whitestown’s citizens through the promotion of community beautification and environmental sustainability. The members of the Commission should include persons knowledgeable and engaged in matters of sustainability, conservation, and the environment. All voting members of the Commission shall be Whitestown residents. Whitestown Town Council members shall not be members of the Commission.

4. **Terms.** The initial term for each member of the Commission shall expire on December 31, 2019. Subsequent terms shall be for two (2) year periods thereafter. Individuals may be appointed for additional terms. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and may be removed from the Commission with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Town

Council. A vacancy automatically occurs if a voting member: (1) fails to attend three consecutive Commission meetings; (2) moves his/her residence outside of the Whitestown municipal boundaries; or (3) files papers for candidacy to an elected office within Whitestown.

5. **Meetings.** The Commission shall hold meetings at least six (6) times each term, and may hold such additional meetings as the membership Commission determines to be appropriate. At its first meeting each term, the Commission shall select from its membership a Vice-President and Secretary. The Commission shall take and maintain minutes of all of its meetings. Minutes shall contain at a minimum, the time and place of each meeting, the names of the members present, all official acts of the Commission, the votes given by members, and a summary of all proceedings before the Commission. A member of the Town's administrative staff will serve as a nonvoting liaison. A majority of the Commission's members shall constitute a quorum. All official meetings that include a majority of the Commission shall be open to the public, except to the extent otherwise permitted by Indiana law.

6. **Activities and Charge.** The Commission shall have no legal obligations, responsibilities, duties, or governmental authority, and Commission membership shall not constitute a public office. However, the Commission is charged with encouraging a clean and healthy environment for Whitestown's current and future generations through the promotion of sustainable development, environmental responsibility, and community connectivity. The goals of the Commission include:

- a. Understanding the environmental impacts of commercial and residential development initiatives to prevent environmental hazards;
- b. Coordinating cleanup efforts for solid waste (trash) deposits along roadsides, parks, and business fronts;
- c. Investigating submitted environmental issues and sharing findings with stakeholders;
- d. Developing flexible, innovative, and cost effective solutions to bring about change and improvements to address environmental issues;
- e. Instilling environmental responsibility as a community value through education and community involvement opportunities; and
- f. Promoting and encouraging green space conservation.

The Commission is also charged with reviewing, considering, discussing, debating, and advocating on such issues and matters affecting local government and the Whitestown community that its members determine to be important and appropriate, and which are for the betterment of Whitestown and its citizens. The Commission is encouraged to identify issues impacting Whitestown that should be considered by local government, seek and develop realistic and efficient solutions, and make recommendations for consideration by the Town Council. The Commission shall report to the Town Council on its activities at least two (2) times each term.

7. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Whitestown, Indiana, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN  
OF WHITESTOWN, INDIANA

YAY/NAY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Miller, President

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Susan Austin, Vice-President

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Kevin Russell

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Clinton Bohm

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Jeffrey Wishek

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**ATTEST:**

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Matt Sumner, Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Whitestown, Indiana